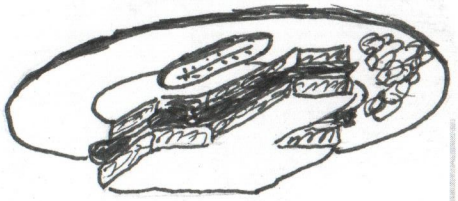
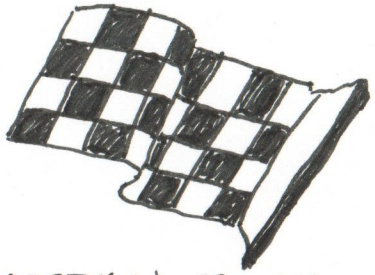
TODAY I LEARNED XXI



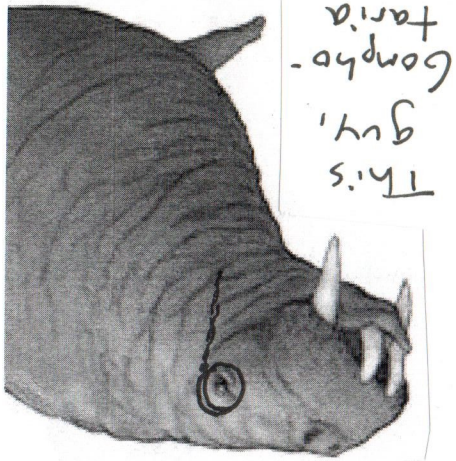
"Life is, in fact, a bathe. Evil is isolate and strang; beauty enchanting, but rare; goodness very apt to be weak; folly very apt to be defiant; wickedness to carry the day; imbeciles to be in great places; people of state in small, and mediocrity unhappy. Isn't the world as it stands is no marvelous illusion, no phantasm no evil dream of the night; we wake up to it forever and ever. And we can neither forget it nor dispense with it."

-Henry James

Thomas Vose, 7/14/22



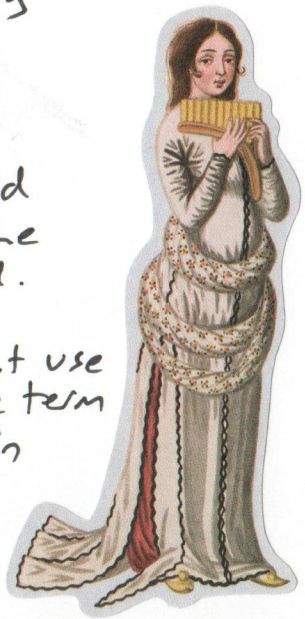
The term "shoo-in" comes from "shooing" a horse across the finish line in a fixed race.



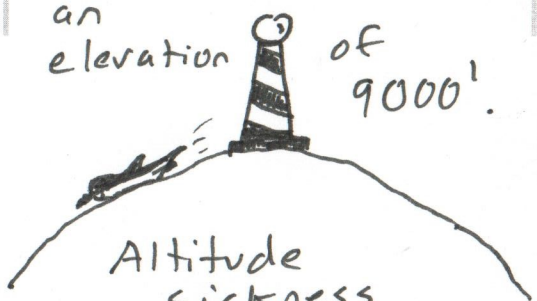
This guy, Gomphotania pugnax, was an extinct relative of the walrus w/ 4 tusks. (All walruses need monocles.)

The balloons at darts games on carnival fairways are usually underinflated so they're harder to pop. (And some use plastic-tipped darts)

"Drag" may have originated from wearing long skirts that trailed on the ground. The earliest use of the term was in 1870.



The South Pole is at an elevation of 9000'.



Altitude sickness is a real issue for researchers there.

In the Civil War, precious metals became scarce, and hoarding was common. So the government made "fractional currency" notes instead. These went as low as 3¢ bills. (They stopped in 1876)